Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service
5825 Florida Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Phone: (225) 922-1362

In Cooperation With:
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Louisiana State University Agriculture Center

VOLUME 99 NUMBER 20 ***LOUISIANA FARM REPORTER*** *OCTOBER 15, 1999*

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT
OCTOBER CROP PROSPECTS
GENETICALLY ENHANCED SEED VARIETIES

LOUISIANA CROP PROSPECTS

The October 1 crop prospects for Louisiana indicate that all major crop yields per acre will be up significantly from last year, with corn, rice, sorghum, and sugarcane setting new record yields, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. The following are prospects for the major crops:

CORN production is forecast at 52.1 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. Yield per acre at 127 bushels, is up 46 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, when the record book on yield began in 1866.

COTTON production is forecast at 850,000 bales, unchanged from last month, but 209,000 bales above last year. Yield at 686 pounds per acre, unchanged from last month, but 100 pounds above last year.

RICE production is forecast at 31.3 million cwt, up 3 percent from last month, and 11 percent above 1998. Yield per acre is forecast at 5,000 pounds, up 150 pounds from last month, and 470 pounds more than last year. If realized, this would be the highest yield on record.

SORGHUM production is forecast at 20.0 million bushels, unchanged from last month, compared to 7.5 million bushels last year. Yield is forecast at 80 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, but up 20 bushels from last year. If realized, this would be the highest yield on record.

SOYBEAN production is forecast at 25.3 million bushels, unchanged from the September 1 forecast, but up 12 percent from a year ago. Yield, forecast at 25 bushels per acre, is also unchanged from September 1, but 4 bushels more than last year.

SUGARCANE production for sugar and seed is forecast at 15.3 million net tons, up 19 percent from 1998. This will be the highest acreage yield and production ever recorded in the State. Louisiana now moves ahead of Florida to become the number one State in the United States for sugarcane acreage. Yield per acre is forecast at 33 net tons, unchanged from last month, but up 3.3 net tons from last year. Recording of acreage, yield, and production began in 1909.

All HAY production is forecast at 756,000 tons, down 12 percent from August 1 forecast, but 4 percent above 1998. Yield, at 2.1 tons per acre, is down 0.1 ton from 1998.

PECAN production is forecast at 18.0 million pounds, up 13 percent from last year's crop.#

U. S. CROP PROSPECTS

Corn for grain: Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 70.9 million acres, down 30,000 acres from last month, and 2 percent from 1998. The October 1 Corn Objective Yield data indicate a record level ear count for the seven objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin). The previous record ears per acre was set in 1998.

As of October 3, 94 percent of the acreage was reported mature in the 17 major States. This compares with 95 percent last year, and 84 percent for the 5-year average. Twenty-nine percent of the acreage was harvested, equal to one year ago, but ahead of the 5-year average of 19 percent. Temperatures were below-normal in some areas of the Corn Belt, but generally dry weather provided ideal ripening conditions, and allowed rapid harvest progress. The northern Corn Belt experienced frost in late-September, but little corn was damaged due to the advanced maturity of the crop.

Sorghum for grain: Production is forecast at 580 million bushels, virtually unchanged from the September forecast, but 12 percent higher than the 1998 total. Area harvested and to be harvested is unchanged from September at 8.50 million acres, up 10 percent from the previous year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 68.3 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushels from last month, and 1 bushel above last year.

Compared to September, forecasted yields in Arkansas and Nebraska each increased by 2 bushels per acre, while Colorado lowered their forecast by 4 bushels. Record yields are expected in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. As of October 3, 77 percent of the crop was mature in the top 12 producing States, 2 points ahead of the average. Harvest, at 40 percent complete, was 4 points ahead of normal.

Rice: Production is forecast at a record high 212 million cwt, up slightly from September 1, and 13 percent above 1998. Harvested acreage, at 3.57 million acres, reflects an increase in Mississippi and Missouri while the acres decreased in California and Texas from last month. The average yield is forecast at 5,945 pounds per acre, down 22 pounds from last month, but up 276 pounds from 1998. Yield prospects in California, Mississippi, and Texas decreased while Arkansas and Louisiana increased from a month ago.

As of October 3, Arkansas harvest was 87 percent complete, ahead of last year, and the 5-year average. California harvest lags 9 points behind the average. Harvest in Louisiana and Texas was virtually complete as of October 3.

Soybeans: Growers expect to harvest 72.8 million acres of soybeans, up 3 percent from 1998, but down 1 percent from the September forecast. Acres expected for harvest were decreased by 475,000 acres in nine states due to abandonment or harvested for hay. The States with the largest acreage reductions are North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. Downward adjustments to harvested acres were also made in Alabama,

Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, and South Carolina.

As of October 3, the percent of the soybeans dropping leaves had reached 88 percent, 1 percentage point ahead of 1998, and ahead of the 82 percent 5-year average. Crop maturity was most advanced in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio, where 96 percent or more of the crop had already dropped leaves. Overall, soybeans were rated in mostly fair to good condition during September. Much of the Delta and southern growing regions continued to show very poor conditions, as soil moisture problems persisted. Freezing temperatures halted crop development and assisted in drying the crop in areas of northern Corn Belt and Great Plains during the last two weeks of September. In the 17 non-objective yield States that make yield forecasts in October, 4 States reduced yields from September.

In the drought stricken States, yields were decreased an additional 3 bushels in Tennessee, and 2 bushels in Alabama and Kentucky. Yields were also lowered 3 bushels in North Carolina as a result of damage caused by the hurricanes and tropical storms that frequented the State. Yield increases were made in Virginia and Wisconsin, while no changes to yield were made in the remaining eleven States.

Despite some delays caused by rain, soybean harvest was progressing well ahead of normal as of October 3, with 32 percent of the acreage harvested, 6 percentage points ahead of normal, but 6 percentage points behind last year's pace. Harvest was over 50 percent complete in Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio and over 30 percent complete in Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, and Minnesota.

Upland Cotton: Harvested acreage, at 13.1 million acres, is down 150,000 acres from September, but up 25 percent from last year. The change in harvested acreage occurred in five States. Missouri's acreage was decreased 70,000 acres, Oklahoma shows a 20,000 acre decrease, Tennessee was lowered 30,000 acres. The affects of Hurricane Floyd are apparent in North Carolina, where 60,000 acres are estimated to be abandoned. Arkansas' harvested acreage was increased to 960,000. **American-Pima** harvested acreage, at 309,200 acres, reflects a decrease of 7,000 acres in Texas. This revised acreage level is 32 percent above 1998.

The Delta States, (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee), continue to experience warm, dry weather. This has resulted in accelerated maturity of the crop and allowed for harvest to progress ahead of schedule. On October 3, Arkansas reported 43 percent of their acreage harvested, compared to 21 percent on average. Louisiana and Mississippi reported 66 percent and 52 percent harvested, respectively. Missouri and Tennessee reported 59 percent and 47 percent harvested, respectively. These reports range from 13 to 39 percent ahead of average. While the weather has allowed for early harvest, it continues to deteriorate the condition of the cotton. Arkansas' cotton was rated 48 percent good to excellent as of September 26, compared to 59 percent at the end of August. Similarly, Louisiana experienced an 18 percent decline in the good to excellent rating during the month, Mississippi's rating decreased 28 percent, and Missouri and Tennessee declined 3 and 11 percent, respectively. Data from objective yield surveys show large boll counts for Arkansas ranked second, and Mississippi's ranked third since 1990. Louisiana's number of large bolls are the ranked fifth during this time period. Boll weights in Arkansas and Mississippi were the lowest in the last 10 years, while Louisiana ranked ninth for this time period.

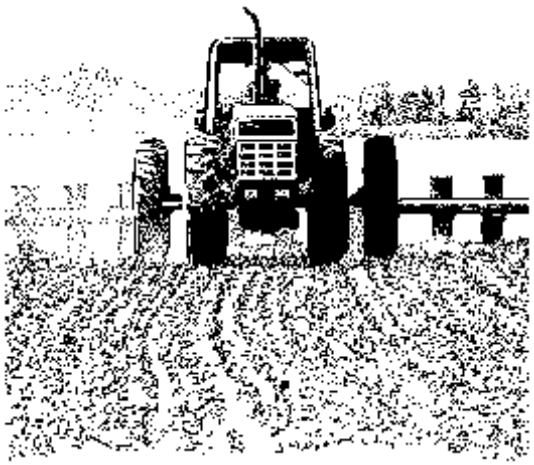
All Hay: Production is forecast at a record high 161 million tons, up slightly from the August forecast, but 7 percent higher than 1998. The all hay yield is forecast at 2.60 tons per acre (also a record), up 0.08 tons from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested for all hay is unchanged from August, at 62.1 million acres, but up 3 percent from the previous year.

Sugarcane: Production is forecast at a record high 37.1 million tons, 7 percent above the previous record of 34.7 million tons set last year. U. S. sugarcane growers intend to harvest a record high 987,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 1999 crop year, 4 percent more than last year's final harvested acres. The record high acreage is due to a 30,000 acre expansion in Louisiana and a 9,000 acre increase in Florida. Yield is forecast at 37.6 tons per acre, 1.0 ton above 1998. A record high yield is forecast for Louisiana due to ideal growing conditions, expanded acreage of a high yielding sugarcane hybrid, and increased utilization of a more efficient harvester. In Florida and Louisiana, mills were preparing for the harvest season, which was expected to begin in early October. In Hawaii, harvest was underway and progressing with few delays.

Pecans: The first forecast for 1999 pecan production is 324 million pounds, compared to last year's 146 million. Pecans are known for their alternate bearing pattern as well as being subject to weather conditions. Improved varieties are expected to account for 237 million pounds of the total, more than twice as large as 1998's 112 million. Native and seedling varieties are projected to make up the difference of 86.7 million pounds.

The Georgia forecast, at 100 million pounds, is two and one-half times the size of the 1998 crop, but the same as the 1997 crop. The crop has been limited by lack of rain in non-irrigated orchards, disease, and reduction of growing area. Trees have been removed or are not being maintained due to low prices. The Texas forecast is for 90.0 million pounds, three times the size of last year's crop. Harvest has begun in the southern part of the State. Prospects in some areas have declined due to dry conditions. New Mexico production is projected to reach 50.0 million pounds. The crop has been in good to excellent condition all season.

Arizona, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kansas, Florida, and California expect larger crops for 1999. South Carolina expects the same size crop as 1998 while North Carolina is projecting a drop in production due to hurricane damage.**#**



OCTOBER 1, 1999 CROP REPORT, WITH COMPARISONS

	Acreage for Harvest		Yield Per Acre				Production		
	Final 1998	Ind. 1999	Unit	Final 1998	Sept. 1999	Oct. 1999	Unit	Final 1998	Oct. 1999
LOUISIANA	------Thousand Acres------						----------Thousand----------		
Cotton, All	525	595	pounds	586	686	686	bales 1/	641	850
Corn, Grain 2/	540	410	bushels	81	127	127	bushels	43,740	52,070
Wheat, Winter 2/	115	90	bushels	37	45	45	bushels	4,255	4,050
Sorghum, Grain	125	250	bushels	60	80	80	bushels	7,500	20,000
Rice	620	625	pounds	4,530	4,850	5,000	cwt	28,107	31,250
Sugarcane 3/	435	465	net tons	29.7	33.0	33.0	net tons	12,920	15,345
Hay, All	330	360	tons	2.20	---	2.10	tons	726	756
Soybeans, Beans	1,070	1,010	bushels	21	25	25	bushels	22,470	25,250
Pecans, Improved	---	---		---	---	---	pounds	3,000	4,000
Pecans, 4/	---	---		---	---	---	pounds	13,000	14,000
Pecans, All	---	---		---	---	---	pounds	16,000	18,000

	Acreage for Harvest		Yield Per Acre				Production		
	Final 1998	Ind. 1999	Unit	Final 1998	Sept. 1999	Oct. 1999	Unit	Final 1998	Oct. 1999
UNITED STATES	------Thousand acres------						----------Thousand----------		
Cotton, All	10,683.6	13,405.2	pounds	625	621	588	bales 1/	13,918.2	16,430.0
Corn, Grain	72,604	70,925	bushels	134.4	132.2	133.5	bushels	9,761,085	9,466,977
Wheat, All 2/	63,577	59,211	bushels	39.7	43.3	43.3	bushels	2,526,552	2,564,769
Sorghum, Grain	7,723	8,499	bushels	67.3	68.2	68.3	bushels	519,933	580,361
Rice	3,317	3,571	pounds	5,669	5,967	5,945	cwt	188,051	212,296
Sugarcane 3/	947.1	987.2	net tons	36.6	37.5	37.6	net tons	34,707	37,134
Hay, All	60,016	62,051	tons	2.52	---	2.60	tons	151,338	161,385
Soybeans, Beans	70,441	72,786	bushels	38.9	37.9	37.0	bushels	2,741,014	2,696,272
Pecans, All	---	---		---	---	---	pounds	146,400	323,900

1/480 lbs. net weight. 2/Estimate carried forward from earlier forecast. 3/For sugar and seed.4/Native and seedling.
(---) indicates that estimate is not made.

FARMER REPORTED GENETICALLY ENHANCED VARIETIES

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts objective yield surveys in major corn, soybean, and Upland cotton producing States each year. Randomly selected plots in corn for grain, soybean, and Upland cotton fields are visited monthly from August through harvest to obtain specific counts and measurements. Detailed information concerning the selected fields is obtained during an initial producer interview. Respondents were asked if they planted seed that, through conventional breeding or bio-technology, was resistant to herbicides or insects.

The following table is based on responses from the seed variety questions on the 1998 and 1999 Objective Yield surveys. These data are not official estimates of the Agricultural Statistics Board, but are intended to show trends in production practices. Herbicide resistant varieties include those developed using both bio-technology and conventional breeding techniques. Insect resistant varieties include those containing bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.) only.

FARMER REPORTED GENETICALLY ENHANCED VARIETIES
PERCENT OF HARVESTED ACRES, BY CROP, 1998-1999

CROP	Herbicide Resistant		Insect Resistant (Bt)	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----------Percent----------			
Corn for grain 1/	9	8	26	30
Soybeans 2/	42	57	—	—
Upland Cotton 3/	33	38	23	27

1/ 7-State total: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin. These 7 States accounted for 69 percent of the U.S. harvested acreage in both 1998 and 1999. 2/ 8-State total: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio. These 8 States accounted for 71 percent of the U.S. harvested acreage in both 1998 and 1999. 3/ 5-State total: Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas. These 5 States accounted for 60 percent of the U.S. harvested acreage in 1998 and 63 percent in 1999.

THE LOUISIANA FARM REPORTER (ISSN-0056-7670) IS PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY (TWICE A MONTH) BY THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE, 5825 FLORIDA BLVD., BATON ROUGE, LA 70806. SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE TO RESPONDENTS AND COOPERATORS, $10.00 ANNUALLY TO ALL OTHERS, AND IS AVAILABLE FROM THE ABOVE ADDRESS. PERIODICALS POSTAGE IS PAID IN BATON ROUGE, LA AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. POSTMASTER: SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO LOUISIANA FARM REPORTER, P. O. BOX 65038, BATON ROUGE, LA 70896-5038.

Internet Access:

***For free automatic e-mail subscriptions to this publication go to http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm or visit our homepage at http://www.nass.usda.gov/la/**

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
(225)922-1362
5825 FLORIDA BLVD. P.O. BOX 65038
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70896-5038

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
is paid at
JACKSON, MS 39204